Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method utilizing a team of heterogeneously sharing network interfaces providing ~~operating in adapter fault tolerance mode to provide~~ primary and secondary use processing of data, comprising:

receiving data for processing by said team~~, said team having a primary network interface and at least one secondary network interface~~;

assigning processing of said received data to a first member of said team;

~~if said data is primary use processing, then processing and transmitting said data by the first member of said team the primary network interface;~~ and

if said data is secondary use processing, determining if the first member lacks a capability required for processing said data, and if so, ~~then~~ distributing processing of said data ~~across said secondary network interfaces~~ to at least one second member of said team having the capability, for transparent processing by the at least one second member on behalf of the first member, wherein said transparent processing facilitates heterogeneous sharing of said team even if the first member lacks the capability.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, in which network interfaces have Media Access Control (MAC) addresses, the method further comprising:

setting the MAC address for the second member of said team to the MAC address of the first member of said team

~~loading a driver for the team of network interfaces, said driver configuring said team to operate in adapter fault tolerance mode and designating the primary network interface and the at least one secondary network interface;~~

~~wherein said distributing processing is according to a workload of said secondary network interfaces~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, in which network interfaces have Media Access Control (MAC) addresses, the method further comprising:

temporarily setting the MAC address for the second member of said team to the MAC address of the first member of said team while the second member performs said transparent processing on behalf of the first member of said team ~~where if said primary network interface has available processing bandwidth, then distributing processing of said data across all network interfaces of said team~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said distributing processing is according to a workload of each of said team of network interfaces supporting the capability.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein processing said data includes encrypting said data according to IPSEC.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving data for secondary use processing from an operating system.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving data for secondary use processing from an application programming interface configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

8. (Currently Amended) An accessible ~~readable~~ medium having associated ~~encoded thereon~~ instructions for heterogeneously sharing ~~utilizing~~ a team of network interfaces providing ~~operating in adapter fault tolerance mode to provide~~ primary and secondary use processing of data, said instructions, when accessed by a machine, directs ~~by directing a~~ the machine ~~processor~~ to:

receive data for processing by said team~~, said team having a primary network interface and at least one secondary network interface~~;

assign processing of said received data to a first member of said team;

~~if said data is primary use processing, then process and transmit said data by the primary network interface;~~ and

if said data is secondary use processing, determin if the first member lacks a capability required for processing said data, and if so, ~~then~~ distribute processing of said data ~~across said secondary network interfaces~~ to at least one second member of said team having the capability, for transparent processing by the at least one second member on behalf of the first member, wherein said transparent processing facilitates heterogeneous sharing of said team even if the first member lacks the capability.

9. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 8, in which network interfaces have Media Access Control (MAC) addresses, and said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

set the MAC address for the second member of said team to the MAC address of the first member of said team

~~load a driver for a team of network interfaces to configure said team to operate in adapter fault tolerance mode and designate the primary network interface and the at least one secondary network interface; and~~

~~distribute processing according to a workload of said secondary network interfaces~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 8, in which network interfaces have Media Access Control (MAC) addresses, and said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

temporarily set the MAC address for the second member of said team to the MAC address of the first member of said team while the second member performs said transparent processing on behalf of the first member of said team

~~determine if said primary network interface has available processing bandwidth, and if so, distribute processing of said data across all network interfaces of said team~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

distribute processing of said data according to a workload of each of said team of network interfaces supporting the capability.

12. (Original) The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further instructions to:

direct the processor to encrypt said data according to IPSEC.

13. (Original) The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further instructions to:

direct the processor to receive data for secondary use processing from an operating system.

14. (Original) The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

receive data for secondary use processing from an application programming interface configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for utilizing a team of network interfaces operating in adaptive load balancing mode to provide primary and secondary use processing of data, comprising:

identifying active and failed network interfaces of said team;

receiving data for processing and transmission by said team;

if said data is primary use processing, then distributing processing of said data across said active network interfaces of said team; and

if said data is secondary use processing, then distributing processing of said data across all active and failed network interfaces of said team, wherein if a first network interface of said team lacks a capability required to process said data, then transparently routing said data to a second network interface of said team supporting the capability.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

loading a driver for said team, said driver configuring said team to operate in the adaptive load balancing mode and appear to be a single network interface.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

receiving, by a first one of said team of network interfaces, a portion of said received data for processing; and

identifying the capability is ~~a processing mode~~ required for processing said portion~~;~~

~~determining if said first one supports the processing mode; and~~

~~if not, then submitting processing of said portion to a second one of said team of network interfaces~~.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

installing said team of network interfaces in a computing device having an operating system; and

receiving data for secondary use processing from said operating system.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein an application programming interface is configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

installing said team of network interfaces in a computing device having an operating system; and

receiving data for secondary use processing from an application programming interface configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

21. (Currently Amended) An accessible ~~readable~~ medium having associated ~~encoded thereon~~ instructions for utilizing a team of network interfaces operating in adaptive load balancing mode to provide primary and secondary use processing of

data, said instructions, when accessed by a machine, directs ~~by directing a~~ the machine ~~processor~~ to:

identify active and failed network interfaces of said team;

receive data for processing and transmission by said team;

determine if said data is primary use processing, and if so, then distribute processing of said data across said active network interfaces of said team; and

determine if said data is secondary use processing, and if so, then distribute processing of said data across all active and failed network interfaces of said team, wherein if a first network interface of said team lacks a capability required to process said data, then routing said data to a second network interface of said team supporting the capability.

22. (Original) The medium of claim 21, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

load a driver for said team, said driver configuring said team to operate in the adaptive load balancing mode and appear to be a single network interface.

23. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 21, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

receive a portion of said received data for processing by a first one of said team of network interfaces;

identify the capability is ~~a processing mode~~ required for processing said portion~~;~~

~~determine if said first one supports the processing mode; and~~

~~submit processing of said portion to a second one of said team of network interfaces~~.

24. (Currently Amended) The medium ~~method~~ of claim 21, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

receive data for secondary use processing from an operating system.

25. (Currently Amended) The medium ~~method~~ of claim 21, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

receive data for secondary use processing from an application programming interface ~~is~~ configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.